

May 18, 2007

New Pharmacy Prior Authorization Program for Proton Pump Inhibitors

Effective June 1, 2007, the N.C. Medicaid pharmacy program will require prior authorization on brand name proton pump inhibitor medications. Medications that will require prior authorization include Aciphex, Nexium, Prevacid, Prilosec, Protonix and Zegerid.

Prescribers can request prior authorization through ACS by contacting ACS at 866-246-8505 (telephone) or 866-246-8507 (fax). On June 1, pharmacists will also be able to override the PA requirement at point-of-sale if the prescriber writes one of the following phrases on the face of the prescription:

- “Failed omeprazole 40mg for 30 days
- “Esophagitis Grade C” – for esomeprazole magnesium (Nexium) 40mg prescriptions only
- “Esophagitis Grade D” – for esomeprazole magnesium (Nexium) 40mg prescriptions only
- “Cannot swallow tablets”
- “Cannot swallow capsules”

If a brand name proton pump inhibitor medication has a generic version available, “medically necessary” must also be written on the face of the prescription in order to dispense the brand name drug. Prior authorization will not be required for recipients who are pregnant, breastfeeding or under 6 years old.

The criteria and PA request form for these medications are now available on the N.C. Medicaid Enhanced Pharmacy Program website at <http://www.ncmedicaidpbm.com>